

KOONTZ COAL COMPANY LOG HOUSE

AL-VI-C-116
Seldom Seen Road, Lonaconging
CA.1820

The Koontz Coal Company Log House consists of a one story, three bay wide, rectangular log structure that rests on a high stone foundation. The house is believed to have been built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century as a simple shelter for a subsistence type of farm. The log houses were easy to construct, very sturdy and timber for the logs was readily available in Allegany County.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Koontz Coal Company Log House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Seldom Seen Road _____ not for publication

city, town Detmold _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Sixth

state Maryland _____ county Allegany

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Koontz Coal Company

street & number P.O. Box 228 _____ telephone no.:

city, town Frostburg _____ state and zip code Maryland 21532

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Courthouse _____ liber 134

street & number 30 Washington Street _____ folio 236

city, town Cumberland _____ state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

*title _____

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Survey No. AL-VI-C-116

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Koontz Coal Company House is located on Seldom Seen Road approximately two miles southwest of Lonaconing. It is sited on a plateau midway up the east slope of Big Savage Mountain and commands a spectacular view of the Georges Creek Valley.

The house is oriented on a north-south axis and is built into the hillside, exposing the full stone cellar on the east facade. Of log construction, the Koontz House is three bays long and a true story-and-a-half high, with a pitched gable roof. The log walls are joined with V-notching and are chinked with sandstone; remnants of whitewash are still evident on the exterior walls.

Central entrance doors are flanked by single 6/3 sash windows on both the east and west facades; a two story porch stretches across the east facade.

An exterior shouldered stone chimney of split sandstone rises against the north gable wall, serving single fireplaces in the cellar and on the first floor. An interior brick stove chimney rises within the south gable wall. The upper gables are framed in with studs and sheathed with vertical boards and are each pierced by a single small window to light the loft.

The roof is covered with a variety of asphalt roofing materials; the rafter ends are left exposed.

The majority of the window sash and the batten entrance door have been removed; the remaining sash is no longer glazed.

The interior first floor plan consists of three rooms: a large room extending the full depth of the house to the north and two smaller rooms to the south. The original stone fireplace is centered on the north gable wall of the largest room, flanked on the east by an enclosed winder stair rising to the second floor and on the west by a similar stair descending to the cellar. The south partition wall of the north room is constructed of beaded vertical boards.

The cellar is divided into two unequal rooms, with the larger room to the north.

This house was severely dilapidated when surveyed in 1977 by John Nelson and by February 1981, when re-examined by Merry Stinson, was in a state of partial collapse.

A vaulted stone root cellar is located about 50' south of the house. The ruins of several frame outbuildings appear to the east.

8. Significance

Survey No. AL-VI-C-116

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The log cabin remained a popular form of housing in Allegany County until the present century. The Koontz log house was probably built in the first quarter of the 19th century as a simple dwelling for a subsistence type of farm. The log house was inexpensive to build, easy to construct and extremely sturdy. Years after their construction, many of these buildings were covered with a variety of sidings; on this particular structure, however, the logs have been left exposed.

This building is significant as a good example of a well-built, typical early settler's dwelling. The floor plan resembles that of several other buildings, including the nearby J. Koontz Farm (AL-VI-B-237) and the James White House (G-VI-) and the Reichenbecher House (G-II-C-292) in Garrett County. The ovolo molding, found on the cellar window, occasionally used as late as 1830, usually appears in the eighteenth and very early nineteenth centuries.

Survey No. AL-VI-C-116

PS-2746

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0104255304
AL-VI-C-116

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Koontz Coal Company Log House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Seldom Seen Road

CITY, TOWN

Detmold

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

— YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— EDUCATIONAL

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— MILITARY

— OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Koontz Coal Company

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 228

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland, 21532

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 134

Folio #: 236

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Koontz Coal Company House is located on Seldom Seen Road south west of Lonaconing, Allegany County.

The Koontz Company House is a three bay wide, one story high log structure that rests on a high stone foundation. The house has a "V" notching, hewn logs and stone chinking. The roof is gabled with exposed rafter ends and is covered with a variety of asphalt roofing materials. Windows in the structure have been removed; however, they were originally double hung, pegged, wooden sash frames with six over six lights. The main entrance is located on the east side; although the door is now gone, it originally featured a door constructed of plain vertical boards. A high three bay end porch was once located on the east facade as well. However, it is now partially collapsed. The building has two chimneys, one of replaced brick located in the inside gable end and another, an original stone outside end chimney.

The first floor of the house is divided into three rooms, two smaller ones on the south side and a large room containing the fireplace which stretches the width of the building. Dog legs stairs, which lead to a sleeping loft are located next to the fireplace while a second set of stairs, located on the west side of the main room descend to the basement.

The Koontz Coal Company House is severely dilapidated. However, despite the fact that the building is in such poor condition it nevertheless manages to retain much of its original fabric and appearance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The log cabin remained a popular form of housing in Allegany County until the present century. The Koontz log house was probably built circa 1820 as a simple shelter for a subsistence type of farm. The log house was inexpensive to build, easy to construct and extremely sturdy. Years after their construction, many of these buildings were covered with a variety of sidings; However, on this particular structure, the logs have been left exposed.

The Koontz Log Cabin differs slightly from the majority of log structures in the county in that it had an extremely high stone basement which provided a kitchen area for the inhabitants of the house. Like other log cabins, the house had a large central room on the first floor with a massive stone fireplace. Dog leg stairs behind the fireplace ascended to the loft.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson and Joan Baldwin

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

4/12/77

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-5967

CITY OR TOWN

La Vale

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO. AL-VI-C-116

134/236
698 acres

DATE: 3/17/77

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Koontz Coal Company Log Cabin Military Lot 3960

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Seldom Seen Road

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: East

NAME OF OWNER: Koontz Coal Company

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 228

Frostburg, Maryland 21532

STORIES: 1(X)¹/₂ 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3(X) 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

Dwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- () BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- () STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- (X) LOG "V" Notching/Stone chinking
- () Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS Plain

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE First floor in basement

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6(X) 9/6() 9/9() other() Gone
pegged (X) nailed() wide () narrow () mitred () pediment ()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: East and West
HARDWARE: original(X) replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards Board and Batten

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
original(X) replaced() Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,
Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, MANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, DORMERS #
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original() replaced(X)

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable() Collapsed

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 2 BRICK(X) STONE(X) CORBELED() original(X) replaced (X)
LOCATION: Flush end() Inside end(X) Outside end(X) Central() Interior ()

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

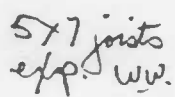
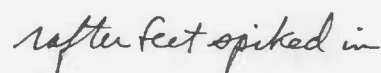
Use - Vacant

Significance - Arch

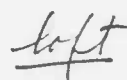
Date Constructed - CA 1820

Condition - Deteriorated

Mary Stinson
2/14/81
1 of 2

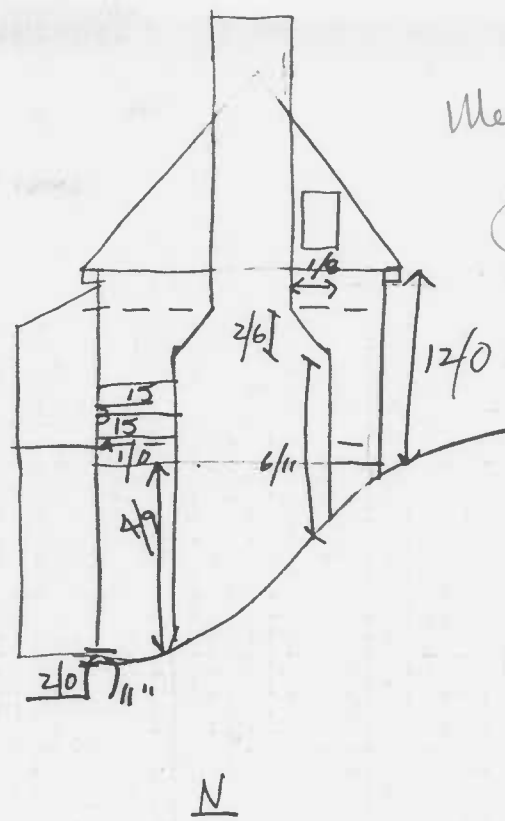
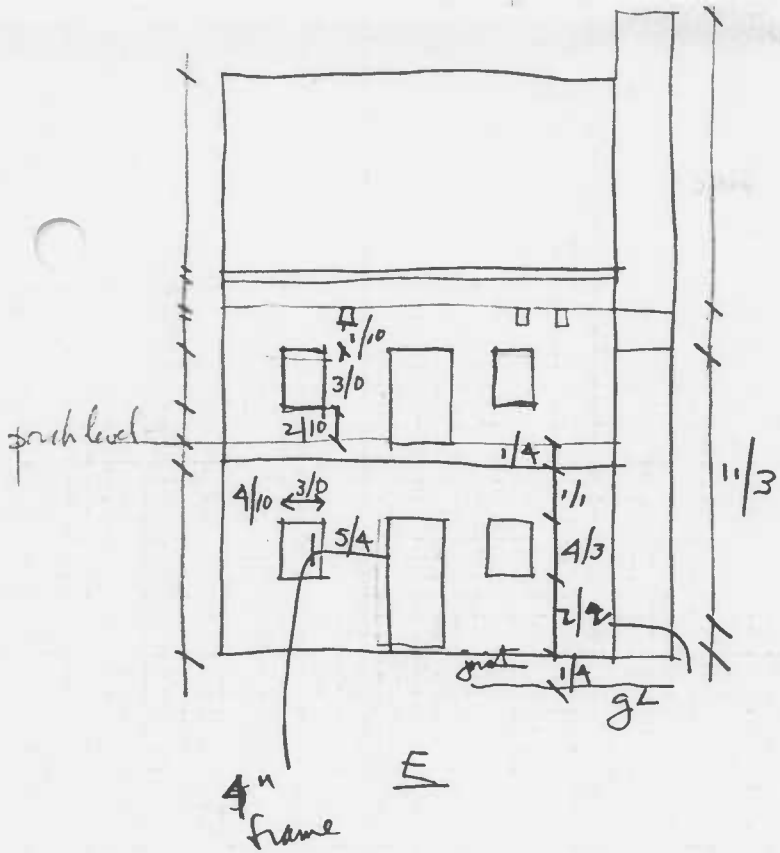


* + 89 boddy.

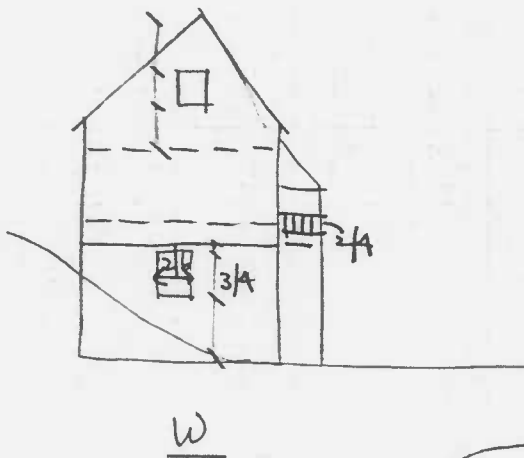


AL-VI-C-116

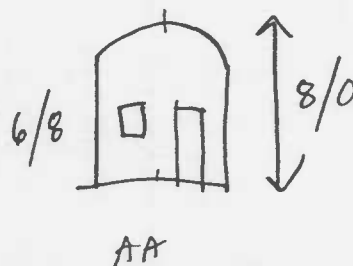
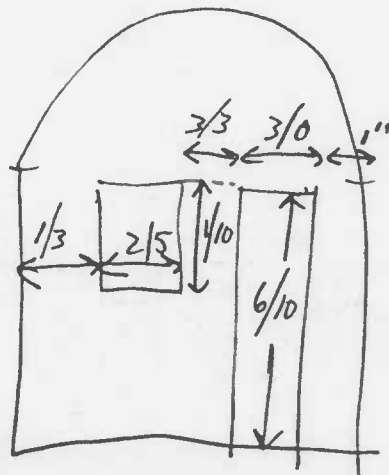
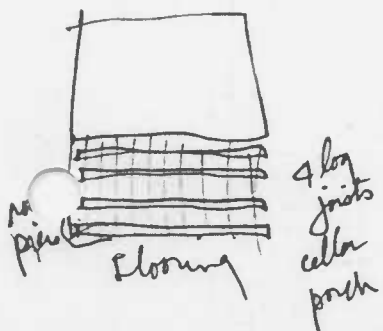
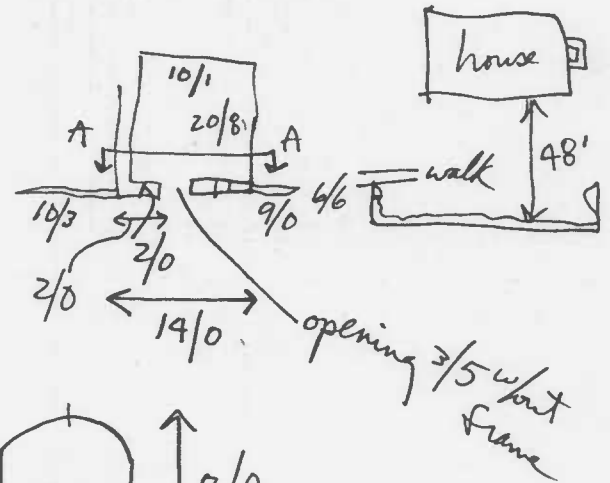
Mary Swanson
2/14/81
2 of 2



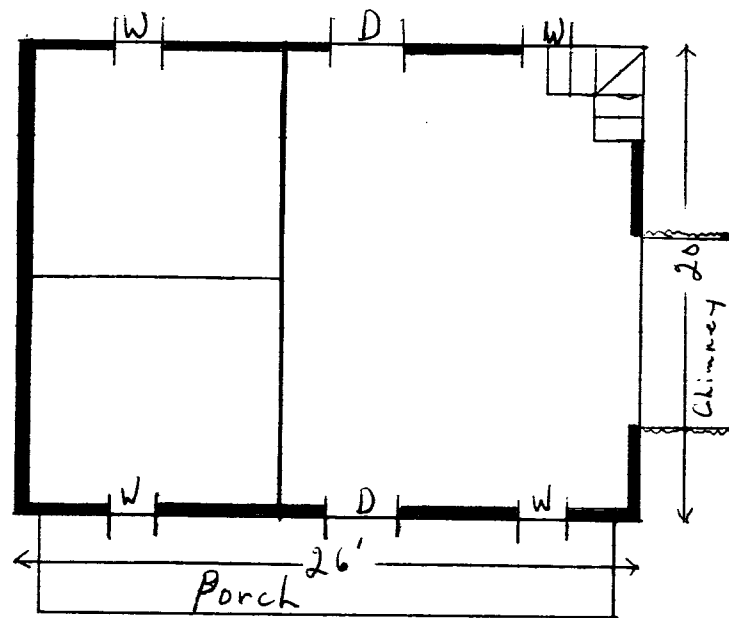
cellar: 6/6 sash
main floor: 6/3 sash



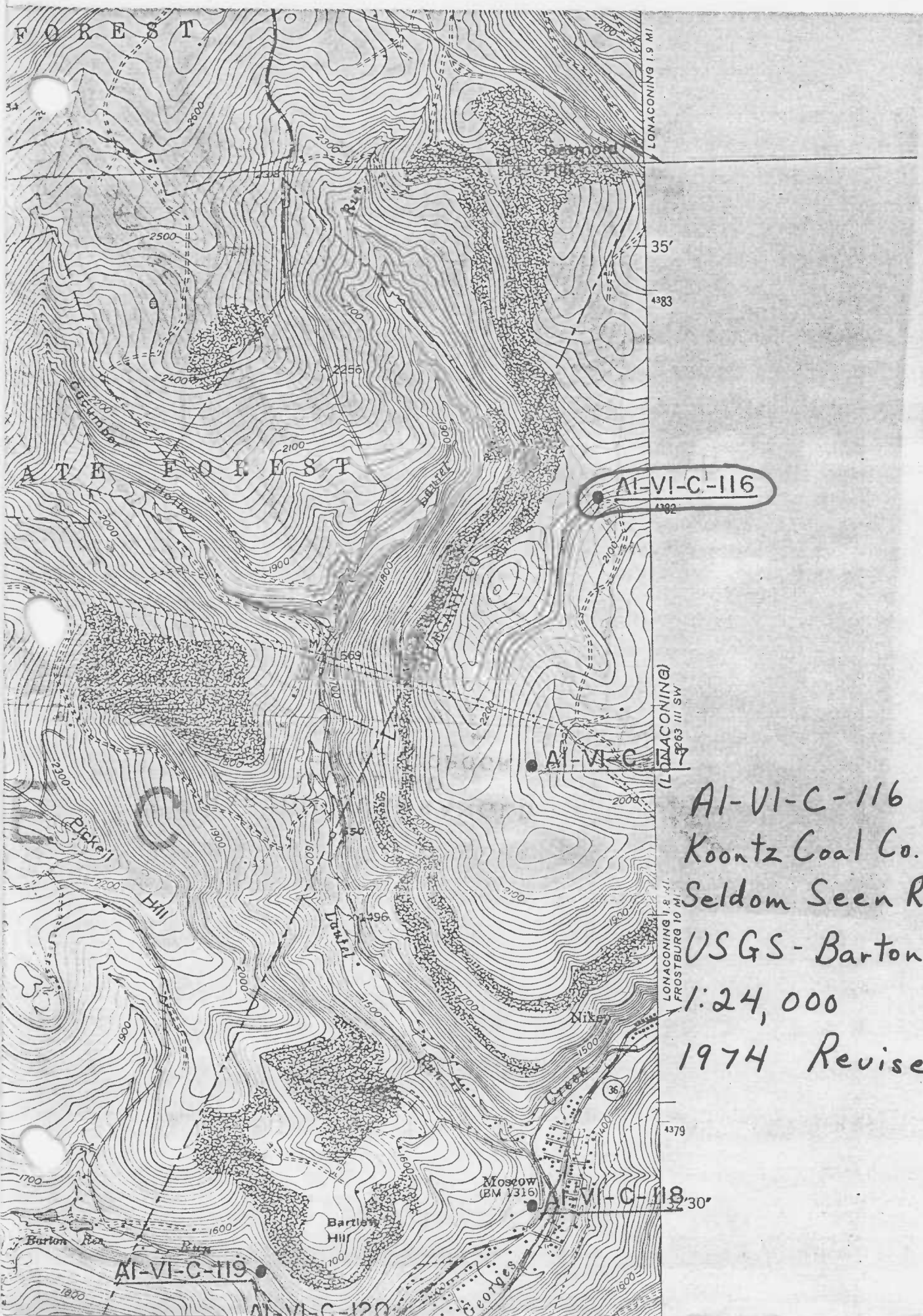
concrete over wire mesh ceiling
concrete over stone floor



AI-VI-C-116
LOG HOUSE
Seldom Seen Rd
Lonaconing



1 Block = 1 Sq. Ft.



AI-VI-C-116
Koontz Coal Co. Log House
Seldom Seen Rd, Detmold
USGS - Barton Quad
1:24,000
1974 Revised.



Al- VI- C- 116

Koontz Coal Co. Log Cabin

Seldom Seen Rd.

Detmold

John E. Nelson

3/17/77

North west



AI-VI- C-116

Koontz Coal Co. Log Cabin
Seldom Seen Rd.

Detmold

John E. Nelson

3/17/77

Southwest



A1-VI-C-116

Koontz Coal Co. hog cabin

Seldom Seen Road

Barter - Detmold

John Nelson

3/17/77

north east



AI-UI-C -116

Koontz Coal Co. Log Cabin
(Remains of Barn)

Seldom Seen Rd.

Detmold

John E. Nelson

3/17/77

Northwest



AT-VI-C-116

Koontz Coal Co. Log Cabin

Seldom Seen Road

Barton - Detmold

Gerrit Nelson

3/17/77

southeast